

REMARKS

Summary of Claims Status

After entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-22 and 34-44 will be pending in the application. Claims 1, 12, and 34 are independent claims. The independent claims stand rejected as allegedly being unpatentable in view of U.S. patent application publication no. 2003/0156688 ("McCarty") in view of U.S. patent no. 6,640,474 ("Knoerzer").

Examiner Interview Summary

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the time and attention afforded by Examiner Silbermann during a telephonic interview conducted on July 7, 2006, with Applicant's undersigned attorney. The final rejection was discussed in view of the teachings of McCarty and Knoerzer. Agreement on the claims was reached.

Applicant's attorney referred to § 8 of the Office Action, wherein the Examiner suggests that Applicant's claims "do not definitively claim a non-electronic note." Rather, the Office Action asserts, the claims "merely recite structure that is 'adapted to be' used in a certain way." Applicant's attorney agreed to amend the claims to definitively claim a non-electronic note. The Examiner agreed that such amendment would patentably define over the combined teachings of McCarty and Knoerzer.

Section 102/103 Rejections

As hereby amended, each of the independent claims recites a note retention member that retains a non-electronic note, and a controller that causes a note-waiting indicator to provide a human-perceptible indication that the non-electronic note is retained in the note retention member. Neither McCarty nor Knoerzer teaches or suggests a note retention member retaining a non-electronic note, nor a controller that causes a note-waiting indicator to provide a human-perceptible indication that a non-electronic note is retained in such the note retention member. Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that the pending claims patentably define over the teachings of McCarty and Knoerzer.

Claim 1 also recites a switch that is actuated by insertion of a non-electronic note into the note retention member. Neither McCarty nor Knoerzer teaches or suggests such a switch. For this reason as well, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-11 patentably define over the teachings of McCarty and Knoerzer.

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Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-22 and 34-44.

Respectfully submitted,

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